

Ohio Energy Advanced Manufacturing Center; Downtown Lima, Inc.; the Allen Economic Development Group; and West Ohio Community Action Partnership. His pursuit of partnerships among these organizations and many community-driven task forces have helped support the city's workers and helped retain vital employers in the community, including the Lima Refinery, the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, JSMC, and the Ford Engine Plant.

I am grateful that our friendship long predates both of our political careers—Dave is a fellow native of Mansfield, OH. He is also a fellow Eagle Scout. One of my most prized photos is that of then-Col. John Glenn posing with me as I am awarded the Eagle Scout badge at the Johnny Appleseed Council's Eagle Scout ceremony. What that photo does not show is that Mayor Berger was there as well.

Dave's legacy will live on in the city he loved—the jobs he saved and secured, the water infrastructure he improved, the businesses he helped thrive and grow, and, most importantly, the lives he helped change for the better.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing my friend, Mayor David J. Berger, a long and happy retirement. Dave has done so much good for so long for the people of Lima, and because of his work, Lima's next mayor, Sharetta Smith, has a strong foundation to continue addressing the challenges facing this city in the heart of Allen County.

Dave, thank you for 32 years of dedicated service and for the legacy you have created. I know it has not always been easy but all your efforts are appreciated.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR DANIELA RAGEN

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing MAJ Daniela Ragen, U.S. Army National Guard, of Broadwater County, as Montanan of the Month for her service to our Nation.

Daniela knew from a young age that she wanted to be a soldier. As soon as she enlisted in the Army, Daniela faced a challenge—a language barrier. She persisted and studied tirelessly to pass her English exams with high scores—so high she was accused of cheating and was forced to retake the exam. That didn't deter her. She retook the exam and passed again with flying colors.

Following a period of service on Active Duty, Major Ragen joined the Arizona National Guard, where she continued her career as an analyst in the Joint Counter Narcotics Task Force. Major Ragen then enrolled in the selective 15-month officer candidate school, where she was 1 of only 6 participants who graduated from a starting class of 21 students.

In addition to serving her country, Daniela has served the great State of Montana as a coordinator for the Montana National Guard Counter Drug

Program. In this position, Daniela represents the best of both the National Guard and the State of Montana through her values of service, leadership, and persistence. She was even selected by her colleagues to serve as the chair for Northwest Region Advisory Committee for the National Counterdrug Program.

On top of being an exemplary Montanan and soldier, Daniela is a wife and a mother of five children, one of whom is currently serving in the Montana National Guard. Her husband, LTC Chase Ragen, is also a long-serving officer in the Montana National Guard.

Major Ragen truly embodies the values of a soldier and the spirit of a Montanan. It is my honor to recognize Daniela for her resilience, courage, and commitment to serving her great State and country. Keep up the great work, Major Ragen.●

RECOGNIZING CHEZ PANISSE

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of Chez Panisse, the pioneering home of farm-to-table cooking in Berkeley, CA.

Chez Panisse was founded in 1971 by Alice Waters, then a young Montessori teacher. She felt that by strengthening her community's connection to seasonal foods and local growers, she could foster new ideas and connections. At the core of the new restaurant was a sense of social responsibility and limitless communal potential.

Guided by Alice Waters' ideals, Chez Panisse spurred a movement of slow food and local eating, showing that sustainability could ground a gourmet menu. Alice Waters mentored countless young chefs on her staff, many of whom went on to open restaurants, found companies, or write cookbooks of their own. Today, the style pioneered at Chez Panisse is known as California cuisine.

And Alice Waters never lost sight of the principles that inspired her. To commemorate the restaurant's 25th anniversary in 1996, she launched the Chez Panisse Foundation, which supports organic gardening and culinary education in schools. Thousands of schools across the world now benefit from the curriculum developed through her Edible Schoolyard Project.

Chez Panisse is an icon of the California culinary scene, offering a testament to the fruits of eating locally and sustainably. I congratulate Alice Waters and all the staff of Chez Panisse on this remarkable anniversary and send my best wishes for the decades to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 796. An act to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 147. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to make certain improvements to services and benefits for veterans and separating members of the Armed Forces with respect to apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2433. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual's cause of death, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2915. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to national security interests for Department of Homeland Security frontline operational components, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4233. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans and members of the Armed Forces using certain educational assistance benefits.

H.R. 4591. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs, performance metrics, and outcomes of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program.

H.R. 4626. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require an independent assessment of health care delivery systems and management processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs be conducted once every 10 years, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5516. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5603. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish protections for a member of the Armed Forces who leaves a course of education, paid for with certain educational assistance, to perform certain service.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 147. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to make certain improvements to services and benefits for veterans and separating members of the Armed Forces with respect to apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.